

K-459

1883-1893

York Farm

Chestertown

No expense was spared in the construction of York House. The elaborate brackets; applique work; and interior and exterior trim are the best and most costly that 19th century catalogues had to offer. Located on the northwest side of Quaker Neck Road near the Route 661 junction, this frame house is 2-1/2 stories and cross-shaped in plan with generous one-story porches filling in at three corners of the cross. The house's floor plan is unusual for Kent County and is clearly an attempt to sensibly accomodate a large number of rooms while keeping the house well balanced visually. A group of 19th century farm buildings are clustered behind the house. York Farm, one of Kent County's most picturesque and largest Victorian country homes, is a showcase of late 19th century architectural ornament.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic York Farm

and/or common Eliason Farm

2. Location

Northwest side of Quaker Neck Road, NE 1/4
 street & number 1/8 mile southwest Route 661 turn off ___ not for publication

city, town Chestertown ☒ vicinity of congressional district FIRST

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Thomas Walker Eliason

street & number Byford Heights telephone no.: 301-778-0597

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland, 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP53

street & number folio 7

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-459

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built between 1883 and 1893, this frame house is 2½ stories tall and cross-shaped in plan with generous one-story porches filling in three corners of the cross. No expense was spared in the construction of the house and elaborate brackets, applique work, and interior and exterior trim are the best and most costly that 19th century catalogues had to offer.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-459

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Farming

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

One of Kent County's most picturesque and largest Victorian country houses, York Farm is a show case of late 19th century architectural ornament. Elaborate brackets, stair parts, doors and other details were used here with enthusiasm, and a good sense of proportion. The house's floor plan is unusual for Kent County and is clearly an attempt to sensibly accomodate a large number of rooms while keeping the house well-balanced visually. Another interesting aspect of York Farm is the group of 19th century farm buildings clustered behind the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-459

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marsha L. Fritz, Surveyor		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County	date	7/24/81
	Historical Society of Kent County		
street & number	The Court House	778-4600	
	Church Alley	telephone	778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 2½ stories, 8 bays wide, 4 bays deep.
2. Plan type - Cross-plan, no wings. See sketch plan.
3. Roof type - Steep gable with dormers
4. Chimneys - Location: 1) 2-flue chimney at crossing of cross;
2) enclosed in east gable (kitchen); 3) between stair hall and west rooms (#2 & 3 single flue)
Materials: Brick; # 1 & #2 recently rebuilt of modern brick.
Decorative elements: #1 & #2 - double band.
#3, the only original, has banding plus outset brick detail on all four faces.
5. Material/Walls - Frame: Lapped weatherboarding about 5" appears to be cypress
6. Material/Roofs - Main Section: Green/black blend asphalt shingle
Porch A: Asphalt roll roofing
Porch B: Standing seam
Porch C: Asphalt roll roofing
7. Material/Foundation - Main Section: Common bond brick
Porch A: Same
Porch B: Same
Porch C: Brick Piers
8. Age - 1883-1893
9. Style - Vernacular Victorian

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Into stairhall. The third bay from the west, on the south facade. Originally the main entry was probably through porch B, where the grandest entry door is located. The present door is small and low, an incongruous element. - Entry door front exterior: The doorway has plain trim (4") and plain sill. There is a bold hood with decorative brackets & cyma recta and fillet crown mold. The door has an upper light with applique work below the sash and a top molding. Entry door from Porch B: Double doors with detail similar to above but with single-light transom and 2-light side lights. The glasses are cut and etched with a beautiful geometric pattern and no upper lights but a shallow "pedimented" hood molding above the upper panel. Above this door is a bold hood about 10" deep.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Entry door to Kitchen: simple, 4-panel with glass added to upper panels.

Rear door to stair hall: 4-panel with rounded upper panels edged with bolelection moldings.

2. Windows - Type: Double hung
 Lights: 2/2 except 1/1 in bay
 Details: Very slender muntins in windows. Plain wooden trim and sills. About 3" hood molding of a double fillet and cove on the east section and a double fillet and cyma reversa (probably) elsewhere.
 Shutters: Wooden louvered with operable lower panel.
 Front Bay Window: Octagonal with a pair of narrow 1/1 sash windows in front and one window in each angled side. Beneath each window is a pyramidal panel. The angled corners are finished with a recessed quirked bead. The roof is hipped, covered with flat soldered metal roofing, and has cornice details which duplicate the main-house roof but in miniature.
3. Dormers - Gable with overhanging eaves, 2/2 sash, horizontal weatherboarding on the cheeks. The eaves are boxed and have composite crown moldings. On the front (south) dormers there is applique in the tympanum and small brackets at the top and base of the pilasters.
4. Roof Details - The same cornice details are used throughout the west and front pavillion of the cross gable. This is a box cornice overhanging about 14" with a cyma recta and fillet crown-molding. There is a circa 3' return at all gables. Elaborate wood brackets are spaced about 14" on center and there is a corner drop/foiliated base. The fascia at the top of the wall is deep and finished with a molding (probably a Greek ogee and bevel). An additional molding about 5" from the bottom of this fascia adds an additional horizontal shadow line. The cornice on the east section of the house is the same but with a fillet and bevel bed molding instead of brackets.
5. Porches - Porch A has square chamfered posts and a flat roof with cyma recta and fillet crown-molding. Porch B has a shallow shed roof with shallow box cornice. It probably had brackets; a foliated wooden "ginger bread" scallop on the underside of the beam remains behind screening. A portion of this porch is enclosed as a main entry. Porch C - is one bay with a turned post flat roof.
6. Color - Current: white/green shutters
 Historic: ?

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

7. Other - The lower edge of the weather-boarding is finished with a 6" board surmounted by a bold, beveled drip cap. There are 5" cornerboards.

Interior Description

1. Plan type - see sketch plan
2. Major stair - Dogleg, open to third floor. Large Walnut newel with cable molding applied to octagonal shaft. Balusters, turned with acanthus leaf carving on lower portion. Open string with step brackets. See illustrations .
Other Stairs - Enclosed leading to kitchen. See floor plan sketch.
3. Major mantles - In south and west rooms, first floor - marbelized slate with round fireplace opening. North room, first floor - simple slate mantle with rectangular opening and shelf supported by cast iron brackets. Second floor - wooden mantles with reeding on frieze and pilasters.
4. Major trim - Windows/doors: In major rooms wide reeded trim. On second floor and secondary first floor rooms - wide trim with inside bead and wide fillet-ogee-fillet-bead backband.
Baseboards: Circa 6" with ogee upper molding
5. Major doors - 4-panel with applied Grecian ogee and bevel panel molding.
6. Floors - Medium width random yellow pine with narrow oak in major rooms.
7. Walls/ceiling finished - Plaster, wallpaper, some modern plywood paneling.

Outbuildings/Site Description

1. Major outbuildings:

Smokehouse: one story gable roofed - vertical boarding on exterior, sheet metal roof, about 14' square. bay framing - 19th century.

Small barn/storage: 1½ story, gable roofed. rough, wide weatherboarding, brick foundation, metal roof. frame - bay framed.

Corn crib: long and narrow/shed on shed room. frame set on piers. stud with wooden cribbing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Cow barn/with silo and additions: 2 story/hay loft, gable roof. Main barn is frame with metal roof. Additions are frame and concrete block. Construction - 20th century bay.

Unknown (use): 2 story, one bay square, gable roof. Main section with flanking one-story, one-bay gable-roofed wings. Frame - weatherboarding, metal and wood shingle roofs. Construction - stud; set on brick piers.

Machine shed (2 of these) Long one-story with shed roof. Material - wide vertical boarding, sheet metal roof. Construction - Bay framed. Small trees set in ground used as posts.

Storage barn/with side shed pen: 1½ story with loft, gable roofed; 1 story shed pen. Material - wide vertical boarding and metal roof. Bay framed.

2. Site Description - The house is reached by a lane immediately to the east which forms a circle in front of the kitchen and then continues on to the barns and fields behind. The several remaining outbuildings are arranged roughly in two rows parallel to and behind the house. In front of the house is a flat grassy lawn with large shade trees.

3. Views to/from site - Bond Chapel is clearly visible across the road. In front of the house is woods. To the east are visible small houses (modern); to the east, north and west are cultivated fields with woods lines about ½-1 mile distant.

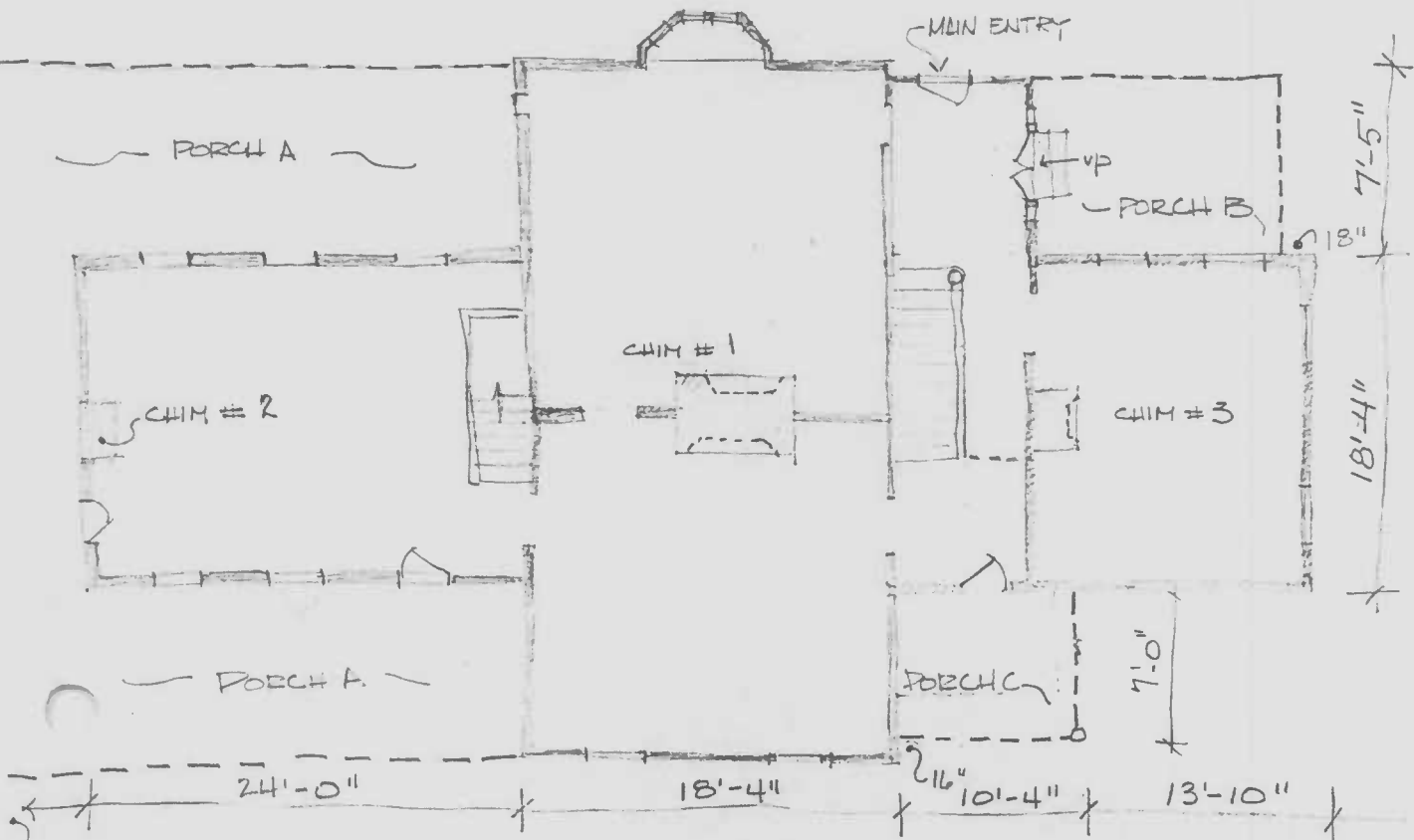
Use of Building

1. Current - Tenant House since 1893
2. Historic - Residence

History of Building/Past Ownership

The York Farm was a part of the estate of Col. E. Wilkens who died about 1880. An equity proceeding followed with his heirs seeking to divide his property. On February 12, 1883 (SB4/76) a deed for the 348 acre farm was awarded to Samuel M. Wilkens, an heir. At the time of Col. Wilkens ownership, there was another house on the property. Clearly shown on the 1877 Atlas, it was located at the end of a long lane, probably the farm lane that runs east of the present house. Presumably this Victorian house and some of the barns were constructed by Samuel Wilkens because it was standing when he sold the farm to Thomas W. Eliason, grandfather of the current owner, on October 7, 1893. The sale price, about \$2100.00 is very low for the farm and buildings. The true story is not known but legend holds that this was the cost of the house, an amount owed to Mr. Eliason, a lumber yard owner in Chestertown. (See K-49)

K-459



PORCH EXTENDS 8'-9"
BEYOND EAST WALL.

CALLER

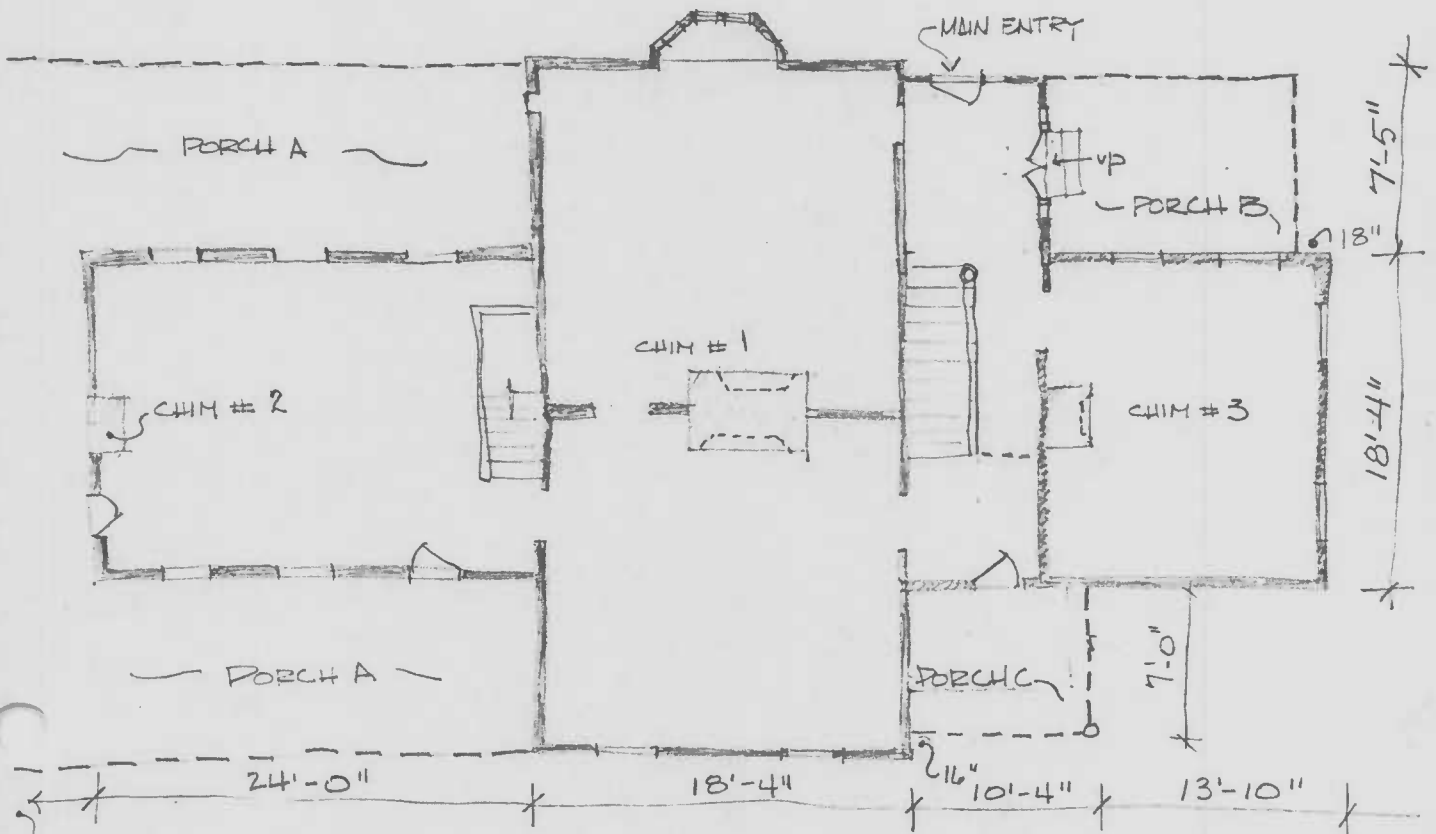
YORK FARM - CHESTERTOWN
SKETCH FIRST FLR. PLAN
- NO SCALE -

M. FRITZ

7/21/81

K-459

K-459



PORCH EXTENDS 8'-9"
BEYOND EAST WALL.

NOT CALLED N.

YORK FARM - CHESTERTOWN
SKETCH FIRST FLR. PLAN
- NO SCALE -

M. FRITZ

7/21/81

K-459





K-459

York Farm

Rt. 289, Quaker Neck, near Chestertown

M. Q. Fallaw - 3/29/86

View to west

K-459 - 25



K-459

York Farm

Rt. 289, Quaker Neck, near Chestertown

M. Q. Fallaw - 3/29/86

View to southeast

K-459-20